

## po NOT put Food scraps

**ON-SITE WASTEWATER SYSTEMS** 

(septic tank + leachfield)

! Septic systems are not designed to handle food waste

**\$** Food scraps may cause costly septic system failure

\$ Increased need to pump out septic and grease tanks

- \$ Increased need for filter maintenance
- \$ May reduce lifespan of leachfields
- \$ Increased risk of plugging pipes and pumps
- \$ May require pre-treatment and larger leachfield
- ! May require state and local permits

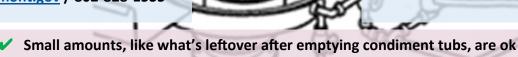
For more information: septic.vermont.gov / 802-828-1535



(sewer)

- ! Sewer systems are not designed to handle food waste
- \$ May violate local ordinance, resulting in fines
- \$ Increased need to pump out grease tanks
- \$ Increased risk of plugging pipes and pumps
- \$ May require installing pre-treatment equipment
- ! May require state and local permits

For more information: wastewater.vermont.gov / 802-828-1535



- Small amounts, like what's lettover after emptying condiment tubs, are ok
- Sending quality food to a food bank, and scraps to a farmer or composter creates value for your community
- Anaerobic digestion may also be an option, especially for fats/oils/ grease and wastes from food processing such as ice cream, cheese, & beer making

## Okay, so what SHOULD you do with food waste?

Donate quality unserved food to **feed hungry people** (14% of Vermonters are food-insecure)

Other food waste should be **fed to livestock, composted,** or **anaerobically digested.** 

Contact your Solid Waste District, Alliance, or Town to find food scraps collection **service providers near you** at **vtrecycles.com**.

## VERMONT AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## **Food Recovery Hierarchy**

**Waste Reduction** 

**Food for People** 

**Food for Animals** 

Compost & Anaerobic Digestion

Energy